MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 24, 1938.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1938 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on March 24, 1938. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Borie,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meetings, held February 3 and February 17, 1938, were approved.

2. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS:

a. The secretary presented printed copies of the regulations adopted by the Commission under the Shipstead-Luce Act in pamphlet form. The Commission expressed their appreciation of the document. The secretary stated that in addition to the 1,000 copies that had been printed for the use of the Commission, the Superintendent of Documents has made 500 copies available to the public.

b. Gasoline Service Station near the Lincoln Memorial. The secretary presented a design for a filling station proposed for erection along the Rock Creek Parkway not far from the Lincoln Memorial, that is, in square 10, lot 800 at New Hampshire Avenue and 27th Street, N. W. The station is to resemble Abraham Lincoln's cabin. Mr. Lamb said he thought a gas station like Lincoln's birthplace would be highly inappropriate. Mr. Clarke felt the land ought to be acquired for park use and suggested that the matter be taken up with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission with a view to that Commission

purchasing the land. The Commission disapproved the design and the Secretary was requested to refer the question of buying the lot to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. If the land cannot be purchased by the Government, then the owner is to employ an architect to design a building in character with the neighborhood.

c. Little Tavern Hamburger Shop. The secretary presented a design for a Little Tavern lunchroom on the south side of B Street opposite the Library of Congress. It is the standard design for the Little Tavern Lunchroom Company and has a glazed tile exterior. The Commission visited the location in the afternoon and approved the design of the building but disapproved the advertising signs proposed for it and advised that these be restudied and again submitted to the Commission. The Building Inspector was informed accordingly.

2. BULFINCH GATEHOUSES: The secretary stated that he had heard informally that there is a possibility of securing $7,000 through P.W.A. funds for repairing the old Bulfinch gatehouses and gateposts along Constitution Avenue. The buildings are to have new foundations and are to be turned to face Constitution Avenue. Mr. Borie suggested that they be painted white so as to be of the same color as the White House. Mr. Lamb felt that the gatehouses should be restored and then if they need painting that question could be settled at that time. This was agreed to by the Commission. The Commission concurred in carrying out this project. It has been pending for several years.

Mr. Finnan presented a scheme for relocating the four Bulfinch gateposts and it was decided to relocate them on Constitution Avenue--two on each side of the north and south sides of 16th Street. Mr. Clarke read the draft of a letter to be sent to Secretary Ickes, Administrator of the Public Works, which was approved. (Exhibit A)

3. SCULPTURE FOR THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of March 17, 1938, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Section of Painting and Sculpture, submitting a model and sketches for a sculptured panel to be placed in the auditorium of the new Interior Department Building:

March 17, 1938.

Dear Mr. Clark:

Reference is made to the proposed sculpture decoration for one of the panels adjacent to the stage on the south side of the west wall of the Auditorium of the New Department of the Interior Building.

I am forwarding herewith a plaster panel together with four pencil drawings submitted by Mr. Ralph Stackpole. The Secretary of the Interior has given his approval for this work with the understanding that the modeling will be less blocky and the whole design treated in a more realistic way in the round.

The comments and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts will be greatly appreciated.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture.

The model and sketches were referred to Mr. Manship for criticism and he reported as follows:

1. The design is confused.
2. The drawing is bad.
3. The arbitrary proportions of the figures to one another in the composition is not convincing.
4. The treatment of the water and other elements is not well realized and lacks clarity.

Mr. Clarke said there must be two panels and thought the Commission should not give approval of the design of one panel without consideration of the other. Mr. Lamb suggested that reference be made to the criticisms of the Secretary of the Interior that is "We agree with it". The Commission were informed by

Mr. Rowan later that there are to be two panels each approximately 11 by 4 feet in size and that he would submit the models at the next meeting.

The Commission approved the criticisms by Mr. Manship and a report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit B)

4. MURAL PAINTINGS FOR THE NEW INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of March 17, 1938, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, together with sketches for paintings for the new Interior Department Building:

March 17, 1938.

Dear Mr. Clark:

Reference is made to the two mural decorations, one on the east wall and one on the west wall of the fifth floor lobby of the New Department of the Interior Building by Mr. John Steuart Curry.

The two designs which Mr. Curry has submitted for the decoration in question are presented to the Commission for its comments and advice. I may add that the Secretary of the Interior liked the panel of the Homesteaders but felt with the Section of Painting and Sculpture that the element of the train in the panel depicting the Oklahoma Land Rush could well be omitted; the other elements moved to the left of the panel and the landscape opened on the right.

The comments and advice of the Commission will be greatly appreciated.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting & Sculpture.

The sketches, which were on the scale of three feet to the inch, were referred to Mr. Savage for criticism. It was noted that the paintings are to be placed on the fifth floor in the lobby and will be about 18 feet long and 8 feet high. Mr. Savage considered the sketches and formulated a statement of his criticisms, which were approved by the Commission and embodied in a report that was sent to Mr. Rowan. (Exhibit C)

5. NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART LANDSCAPE PLAN: Mr. Alfred Geiffert, landscape architect, submitted a landscape plan for the National Gallery of Art,

which proposed a treatment for the area between Fourth and Seventh Streets and also of the "square" between Third and Fourth Streets. The Commission gave particular attention to the area between Fourth and Seventh Streets and decided that the plan for the area between Third and Fourth Streets should be considered in connection with a design for a fountain there.

Mr. Geiffert said that in the area between Fourth and Seventh Streets he plans to use evergreen material such as large box, holly, taxus and pines. Mr. Clarke observed that the use of various kinds of evergreen material had been suggested for certain parts of the grounds and it seemed to him that too many shades of green and varieties of form were involved. He suggested that Mr. Geiffert study this problem further and select planting that would result in greater uniformity of color and less diversity of form. The Commission suggested that two large white oaks flank the Constitution Avenue entrance as they will help frame the portico. The locations for these trees were indicated on the plan. Also the Commission decided that the hedge should be left off the islands on the Constitution Avenue side of the building. The mall of the landscape plan will be planted with elms as it joins the planting of the Mall drives.

With these suggestions the Commission approved the plan for the landscape between Fourth and Seventh Streets. The Commission approved the parti or general treatment of the plan for the area between Third and Fourth Streets with the understanding that the fountain will be a feature of sculptural interest. Accordingly a report was sent to Hon. Paul Mellon, President of the A. W. Mellon Charitable and Educational Trust. (Exhibit D)

6. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE EXTENSION: Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect, submitted plans for a proposed new annex No. 3 at North Capitol and H Streets, N. W., with letter as follows:

March 22, 1938.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the proposed extension (building No. 3) of the Government Printing Office, this City, and to your letter of March 28, 1936, approving the design for this building as presented by this office at that time.

It is believed that the Commission of Fine Arts is aware that since that time circumstances have arisen requiring changes in the design, including the use of brick for facing the exterior walls instead of stone as was previously contemplated. Accordingly, there is forwarded with this letter for your comment and advice, a copy of a perspective sketch showing the proposed new extension and its relation to the present brick faced building.

There is also enclosed a copy of a plot plan showing the present buildings of the U. S. Government Printing Office and the proposed Annex, in relation to the existing structures, streets, etc.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect.

The Commission took note of the fact that at a meeting of the Commission held on March 27, 1936, the Commission had approved a design for a stone building since it was thought then that such a building would be more in keeping with the Washington City Post Office, which is a white granite building almost directly across from the main Government Printing Office Building; also that such a stone building would be more appropriate for the future development of North Capitol Street. However, the Commission were definitely informed by Mr. Simon that Congress has placed a limitation of cost of $7,700,000 for the new building and this has necessitated designing the building in brick. A stone building he said would cost fully $10,000,000 and would also involve refacing the main Government Printing Office with stone.

Mr. Borie and Mr. Lamb gave particular attention to the design and thought it well done for a brick building. It was noted that the design had been

improved over that of the old main building by omitting some ornamental detail. The plan provides for bridges across an alley to connect the new and old buildings. The Commission suggested that the brick selected for Annex No. 3 be as nearly like that of the main building as possible. The Commission approved the design for the brick building and a letter was sent to Mr. Simon accordingly. (Exhibit E)

7. GETTYSBURG MEMORIAL INSCRIPTION: The National Park Service submitted the draft of an inscription prepared for the monument at Gettysburg, which is being erected by the State of Pennsylvania to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the battle, July 1938. The inscription reads as follows:

1. Peace eternal in a nation united.

2. An enduring light to guide us in unity and fellowship.

3. With firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right.
From Lincoln's Second Inaugural address.

It was noted that the inscription is to be placed on one side of the monument. Mr. Manship strongly objected to the first line, "Peace eternal in a nation united" because it is not true to fact. The other members of the Commission agreed with him in this matter and suggested that the memorial committee omit the first line or revise it. The Commission also suggested that a design of the inscription be made so that it can be considered in proper relation to the monument.

The Director of the National Park Service, Mr. A. B. Cammerer, was present and said the Memorial Committee wishes to have a perpetual light burning on top of the monument but that Congress has made no provision for the expense of such lighting. The National Park Service is therefore suggesting that the monument be lighted at the expense of the Government on national holidays and the anniversary of the battle, the State of Pennsylvania to make arrangements for lighting on other days of the year.

Mr. Clarke inquired about the landscape plan. He was shown a plot plan which he thought was essentially the same as the old one. He made the suggestion that a road leading to the memorial have a smoother and easier curve, as this type of topography requires a little freer movement. A complete landscape plan is to be submitted at the next meeting of the Commission.

The Commission were informed that Lee Lawrie is making the reliefs for the memorial.

8. STATUE OF LIBERTY: The National Park Service submitted further progress studies for improving the grounds surrounding the Statue of Liberty in New York City. Mr. Norman T. Newton, landscape architect of the National Park Service, was present to discuss the plans with the Commission.

Mr. Clarke submitted a copy of a letter he had received from Mr. Newton, setting forth features of the project that had thus far been considered and agreed to. (Exhibit F) The Commission discussed the various phases of the project. Mr. Newton said the National Park Service has suggested that it might be better to retain a greater length of the existing sea wall and the plan has been drawn accordingly. A proposed addition on the southern end of the island has been omitted.

The Commission decided that instead of having a mass of steep steps in front of the monument it would be better to raise the grade of the Mall approach to a gradual slope from grade 12 to 19.75. The low wall along the main axis will be kept to a height of two feet so that it will serve for seats, thus making benches unnecessary in this location. The parapet wall on top of the sea wall will be 3 feet 6 inches high to give necessary protection.

The Commission felt that the progress plans were satisfactory. The question of arranging the slope and steps in front of the monument was left for further study by the National Park Service.

9. MEMORIAL TABLET FOR ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL MONUMENT, HODGENVILLE, KY.: The National Park Service submitted a design for a memorial bronze plaque which the National Women's Relief Corps wish to erect at the Abraham Lincoln National Monument at Hodgenville, Kentucky. The Commission inquired where the tablet is to be placed and the National Park Service officials said the actual location has not been definitely determined.

The Commission disapproved placing a bronze plaque outside exposed to the weather for it would soon become blackened from discoloration. If the plaque is to be placed inside the memorial it should be properly designed in relation to its specific location. The Commission advised removing the signature, Abraham Lincoln, from the plaque, which is to embody his Gettysburg Address.

The Commission called attention to the Gettysburg Memorial Tablet in the Lincoln Memorial here in Washington as a standard for a memorial of this character.

10. COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HISTORICAL MARKER: The Commission approved a design submitted by the National Park Service for a historical marker of the Civil War to be erected at Columbus, in accordance with an Act of Congress approved April 10, 1936. The marker will be about 7 feet high.

11. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: The secretary reported that Mr. W. E. Mattingly, one of the Assistant Directors of the Bureau of the Budget, had requested a statement from the Commission of Fine Arts with regard to completing the base of the Navy and Marine Memorial. He called attention to a bill which is pending in Congress (H. J. Res. 403) which proposes to appropriate $189,634 to construct a granite base as originally planned, thus completing the memorial.

The Commission considered the matter in detail. The National Park Service submitted a plan suggesting an earth fill with evergreen ground cover. An esti-

mate was submitted showing that this work could be done for $45,000. (Exhibit G) The Commission decided, after seeing the memorial on Columbia Island, that it would be much better to complete it by an earth fill covered with planting than to construct a granite base. This will result in a large saving of money. A report was sent to the Bureau of the Budget accordingly. (Exhibit G-1)

12. WIDENING MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE: Mr. John Nolen, Director of Planning of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, brought to the attention of the Commission a sketch of a plan proposing to widen Massachusetts Avenue 8 feet in front of the City Post Office by rearranging the entrance steps. He said it is now only 15 feet between the loading platform and the curb, and this is continuously causing traffic congestion at that location. Captain Whitehurst, Director of Highways of the District of Columbia, was present and said he heartily concurred in this scheme to widen the street.

The Commission after consideration felt that the street should be widened at this location and approved the suggestion made by Mr. Nolen, with the understanding that the design for rearranging the steps of the Post Office will be further studied and again submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for final approval.

13. MODEL OF ANTEATER: MR. Edward B. Rowan submitted a photograph of a bronze figure of an anteater by Erwin Springweiler, which is to be dedicated at the Zoological Park. Mr. Manship inspected the photograph and thought the work well done and the figure really interesting. Upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. The anteater is about six feet long. (Exhibit H)

14. PAINT FOR CHAIN BRIDGE: Captain Whitehurst conferred with Mr. Clarke in the matter of color of paint for the new Chain Bridge. He said it would be impossible for the District Commissioners to take the Dupont gray green paint,

which Mr. Clarke had recommended, because the District Commissioners are bound to accept a low bid and can merely specify the color they want. Captain Whitehurst again recommended the use of aluminum paint. This Mr. Clarke and the other members of the Commission disapproved as they felt the aluminum color would make the bridge stand out to strongly in the landscape. The Commission again recommended that the bridge should be painted a gray green as near the Dupont shade as possible.

15. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL: The secretary reported that he attended the meeting of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Committee on Tuesday, March 22, and submitted to Mr. Clarke a memorandum of the proceedings of that meeting. Mr. Clarke read the memorandum, which was as follows:

March 24, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CLARKE:

I attended the meeting of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission on Tuesday afternoon, at which Fiske Kimball read your letter stating that the members of the Commission, meeting informally at the Century Club last Saturday, had disapproved Scheme 3, the Eggers-Higgins design. They regretted this, as it has left them without an alternate design. I stated that the Commission of Fine Arts was meeting on Thursday, at which the design could be formally considered, but Dr. Kimball said that last Sunday he talked with Mr. Borie about the design, and concluded from the discussion that it would be useless to submit this design No. 3 to the Commission at this meeting. Also, since it had been disapproved in New York, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission adopted a motion that design 3 be eliminated from further discussion. When certain of the members realized that the design was a makeshift of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial design they were doubly opposed to it.

The Jefferson Memorial Commission will not use design No. 2, the segmental colonnade scheme, as they have heard that if they do so Mrs. Pope will give information to the press and say the design was stolen.

This has left only the Pantheon Scheme before the Jefferson Memorial Commission. Mr. Boylan is opposed to a competition, since he said it might take two years to get a new design that would be approved by all interested parties, and the Commission is anxious to avoid delay and go ahead with the project.

On Tuesday morning Mr. Boylan and other members of the Jefferson Memorial Commission had a conference with President Roosevelt concerning

the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Mr. Boylan said the President has authorized them to go ahead with the Pantheon Scheme and has agreed to an initial appropriation of $500,000 for the project. The members present at the afternoon meeting then took a vote and unanimously approved the Pantheon Scheme. Mr. Boylan said the Jefferson Memorial Commission has met the objections of the House by taking the site south of the Tidal Basin, which will thus not interfere with the Basin, and do no damage to the cherry trees, and by reducing the size of the Pantheon so that it can be built within the authorization of $3,000,000.

Mr. F. A. Delano said he thought the matter should again be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts before it is taken up with Congress. Mr. Boylan agreed to this and offered to appoint Mr. Kimball, who declined, and Mr. Stuart Gibboney, who also declined. They felt they would receive no sympathy and support from the Commission in the matter of the Pantheon Scheme. The Executive Officer of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, Mr. A. B. Cammerer, was thereupon appointed to submit the Pantheon Scheme to the Commission of Fine Arts this morning for final consideration.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission decided to meet next Tuesday afternoon to make final arrangements before submitting the design to the House of Representatives.

(Signed) H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary.

Thereupon Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Executive Officer of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, conferred with the members of the Commission concerning the memorial. He related what took place at the meeting last Tuesday and said that if the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission had decided to carry out design No. 2 it was planned to have the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department make the working drawings, but that is now impossible. With regard to the contract with Mr. Pope, he said that is dead, citing as a precedent the decision of the Comptroller General with reference to the contract with Cass Gilbert for the U. S. Supreme Court Building. It is now planned to execute a new contract with the successors of Mr. Pope, namely, the firm of Eggers and Higgins. The President strongly prefers the pantheon scheme and it appears but few of the members of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, if any at all, are against the pantheon. Formal action in the matter of adopting the

pantheon scheme has been deferred until the meeting of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission on Tuesday, March 29. Mr. Cammerer said it appears that the complaint about interfering with the Japanese cherry trees has become a secondary feature of the controversy.

At three o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, in company with A. B. Cammerer further discussed the Thomas Jefferson Memorial with the Commission. Mr. Clarke said he had received a copy of the letter sent by Mr. Delano to Professor Hubbard, which was as follows:

March 22, 1938.

My dear Mr. Hubbard:

I am glad to have your long hand letter of March 19, received yesterday, in re the Jefferson Memorial. This whole question is badly balled up, and I don't see just where we will head in. Naturally I am getting most cautious in the way I express myself in public meetings. I think the Commission of Fine Arts bungled the thing pretty badly early in the proceedings by letting Pope think that they favored his plan, and afterwards, due to new blood in the Commission, withdrew their favorable approval of the original design for a less flamboyant pantheon and a better location. The idea of a north entrance to a pantheon is bad and we should continue to oppose it.

There is a movement on foot which I really think has some merit, and that is to put a planetarium in the Mall opposite the Archives Building. While I have not studied this proposition, I think it has a good deal of merit. In the first place, it has some useful purpose, which many of those who believe in Jefferson would favor on that account. Jefferson and Franklin were about the only men of that period who were interested in study and research. The Smithsonian Institution would like it because it would be right up their alley, and a planetarium could be designed so that it would have some of the qualities of a pantheon. In every city both here and abroad where a planetarium has been placed it has aroused an immense amount of interest and has proved of great educational value. Are these not arguments in favor of such a suggestion?

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Frederic A. Delano,
Chairman.

Mr. Delano related his experiences with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, going back several years to the time when the Commission had first

considered the pantheon scheme. He said he had had several talks with Mr. Pope about the design, trying to persuade him and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission to take a different design from the pantheon.

Mr. Clarke pointed out that the Commission of Fine Arts has never approved the pantheon scheme and that it was officially disapproved at the meeting of the Commission on March 20, 1937; also a revised scheme was submitted informally at a meeting of the Commission held in New York City on September 29, 1937, and again the Commission disapproved the pantheon scheme. Thereupon Mr. Clarke said: "If in spite of all, Congress shall take it up and sees fit to overrule the Commission of Fine Arts and will appropriate money for the memorial we will not go out and fight it. The Commission will endeavor to help them secure a good memorial". Mr. Clarke asked if he was stating the views of the Commission and the Commission concurred in this statement by the Chairman.

Mr. Delano said that he talked with Mrs. Pope for 20 minutes about the segmental colonnade scheme (Design No. 2) but she refused to allow it to be used.

Thereupon Mr. Delano referred to the suggestion made in his letter to Prof. Hubbard, of a memorial on the south side of the Mall opposite the Archives Building, which could be placed in front of a planetarium. Mr. Clarke said the Commission had inspected the location and heartily favored the idea. Mr. Clarke raised the question as to how this new scheme might be brought to the attention of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission and Mr. A. B. Cammerer said he would send a telegram to Mr. Boylan recommending that both Mr. Delano and Mr. Clarke be invited to attend the meeting of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission on the 29th.

The Chairman was empowered by the Commission to write a letter to Congressman Boylan reporting the fact that the Commission of Fine Arts had not

approved the pantheon design and recommending further time for the consideration of an alternate scheme. (Exhibit I)

In reply to the telegram sent by A. B. Cammerer, Representative Boylan replied as follows:

New York, N. Y.

Arnold Cammerer, The National Park and Planning Commission, Interior Dept.

Telegram received. Many thanks to you and Mister Delano for representing our Commission at the meeting of the Fine Arts Commission. As it was decided that the meeting on Tuesday next will be an executive session I am necessarily precluded from extending invitations to Mister Delano and Mister Clarke.

John J. Boylan.

(On Tuesday, March 29th the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission adopted the pantheon scheme for the memorial to Thomas Jefferson on the south side of the Tidal Basin.)

16. REPRODUCTION OF THE BLUE BOY FOR BILLBOARD POSTER: Mr. Clarke said he had received a letter from Miss Harlean James, Executive Secretary of the American Planning and Civic Association, asking to be advised about a letter she had received from the General Outdoor Advertising Company in which they propose placing upon a number of their billboards a reproduction of the Gainsborough "Blue Boy". Miss James asked to be informed whether such a display on a billboard along a highway would promote art appreciation. Mr. Clarke said he referred the matter to Mr. Savage for his views and that Mr. Savage gave him an interesting statement. The Commission complimented Mr. Savage upon his reply. The statement was sent to Miss James. (Exhibit J)

17. FREER GALLERY OF ART PURCHASES: The Commission called on Dr. Lodge, Curator of the Freer Gallery of Art, and were shown three objects which he proposes to purchase for the gallery. The Commission expressed admiration for them and approved their purchase. (Exhibit K)

The question of an appropriate fence to consist primarily of a hedge, for the Freer Gallery grounds was further discussed with Dr. Lodge and also with Mr. Finnan and Mr. Kirkpatrick of the National Park Service, who were present.

The Commission adjourned at 4:30 p. m.

C O P Y

March 24, 1938.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts wish to call your attention to the two gatehouses along Constitution Avenue at Fifteenth and Seventeenth Streets. These were designed by Charles Bulfinch, Architect of the Capitol during the early days of the Republic, for the Capitol grounds, but during the enlargement of the grounds in 1872 the gatehouses were removed to their present location. They are interesting historical monuments and their restoration and preservation is very desirable.

At the time Bulfinch designed the gatehouses he also designed a number of gateposts for the Capitol Grounds and several of them were re-erected along Constitution Avenue. They too are in need of repair.

In 1936 the Commission called this matter to the attention of the President, who replied on May 12th of that year as follows:

> "Because of their architectural and historical value, I am deeply interested in preserving the Bulfinch gatehouses and posts. Your recommendation that their orientation be changed so that they face on Constitution Avenue should receive every consideration from the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, and I am sure that Service will submit an estimate for this work at an appropriate time".

The National Park Service has informed the Commission that it would cost $2,100 each to restore the gatehouses and turn them so that they will face Constitution Avenue. This estimate includes new foundations, new floors, new metal roof, repairs to the stone work and engineering. The cost to relocate and repair the gateposts, of which there are four in number, will be $700.00 each. The total cost of this work of restoration would not exceed $7,000.00.

The gatehouses harmonize with the architecture of the White House and they have an important location in the President's Park, and their restoration, together with the gateposts, is deemed a worthy Public Works project. The Commission continually receive complaints as to their shabby and neglected appearance.

The Commission of Fine Arts hope that the project will meet with your approval.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,
Secretary of the Interior and
Administrator of Public Works,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

March 25, 1938.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 24, 1938, considered the model and sketches for the proposed sculpture decorations on the south side of the west wall of the auditorium of the new Interior Department Building. The Commission noted from your letter of March 17, that the Secretary of the Interior has approved the design with the understanding that the modeling will be less blocky and will be treated in a more realistic way. The Commission agree with the comments of Secretary Ickes.

The Commission had Mr. Manship, the sculptor member of the Commission, make a careful inspection of the model, and he reported as follows:

1. The design is confused.
2. The drawing is bad.
3. The arbitrary proportions of the figures to one another in the composition is not convincing.
4. The treatment of the water and other elements is not well realized and lacks clarity.

The Commission concluded from your letter that several sculptured panels are proposed for the auditorium and that this is a model of but one of them. It was felt by the Commission that before giving a final decision as to this model designs for all of the panels should be submitted so that they may be considered in their entirety.

It is advised that a new model be made, which will embody the suggestions as above indicated.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

March 25, 1938.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 24, 1938, considered the designs for two mural decorations by John Steuart Curry to be placed on the east and west wall of the fifth floor lobby of the new Interior Department Building. The sketches were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Eugene Savage, painter member of the Commission, who reports as follows:

> The studies by John Steuart Curry, entitled Oklahoma Land Rush and The Homesteaders, for the fifth floor of the Interior Department Building, the Commission approves with the following suggestions which should be carried out.
>
> The Commission feel that the criticism offered by the Secretary of the Interior, with which the Painting and Sculpture Section agrees, is well taken. The locomotive, because of the way it is introduced, is foreign to the rest of the composition. The further suggestion on your part that, with its removal, the principal elements remaining should be moved to the left, to take the admirable covered wagon group off dead center is well taken. If the locomotive is pertinent to the subject, it can be indicated in the background.
>
> The Homesteader composition is ample and well composed in general line. The Commission feel, however, that the woman and child and sod house group is the only element that touches the picture plane, which is thus approached only in that corner. It is therefore suggested that the horse and wagon group be brought closer, made larger in the interest of better balance and break the horizon which make unfortunate parallelograms with the top and bottom of the picture; this difficulty would thus be relieved. The sky is beautifully designed and would stand more emphasis.
>
> The Commission concur in the report of Mr. Savage.
>
> For the Commission of Fine Arts:
>
> Sincerely yours,
> (Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke.
> Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

March 26, 1938.

Dear Mr. Mellon:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on March 24, 1938, Mr. Alfred Geiffert, landscape architect, submitted a landscape plan for the National Gallery of Art. The plan consisted of a proposed treatment of the area between Fourth and Seventh Streets, and also of the reservation between Third and Fourth Streets. The Commission approved the plan.

The Commission made a few suggestions in matters of detail. The plan provides for the planting of evergreen material in appropriate relation to the building. The Commission suggested two large white oaks at each side of the entrance, which would help frame the portico. It was thought desirable to omit a hedge from the islands on the Constitution Avenue side of the building.

With regard to the reservation between Third and Fourth Streets, the Commission approved the parti or general treatment of the plan, with the understanding that the fountain proposed for this area will be a feature of sculptural interest.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Paul Mellon, President,
A. W. Mellon Educational and
Charitable Trust,
716 Jackson Place,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

March 25, 1938.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 24, 1938, approved the design which you submitted for a brick building for the proposed Government Printing Office Annex No. 3. As indicated in your letter of March 22, note was taken of the fact that in March 1926 the Commission approved a design for a stone building. It is understood that the erection of a stone building has become impossible due to the limitation on funds placed by Congress.

The Commission suggest that red brick as nearly like that of the main building be secured for the new one.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

101 Park Avenue, New York City

March 4, 1938

Mr. V. R. Ludgate,
Regional Landscape Architect,
National Park Service,
Richmond, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Ludgate:

Following up my letter of March 2, with special reference to Mr. Vint's suggestion that I consult Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, regarding the Statue of Liberty, I report herein the results of an informal conference I had with Mr. Clarke last evening.

1. Interior Paint. Mr. Clarke did not recall that the Fine Arts Commission had expressed any desire not to paint the interior of the pedestal. There had been discussion of the color to be used. Under the circumstances, as outlined to you in my letter of March 2, it was Mr. Clarke's thought that paint on the surfaces of the concrete would probably be advisable, but that the Commission would undoubtedly wish to leave the decision to the Service, so far as use or omission of paint is concerned.

On telephoning Mr. Mikell at the Statue this morning, I learn that a WPA estimator for paint was there yesterday. It had been Mr. Mikell's thought that WPA would not press for a decision in the matter for some time, but now it appears that final decision is needed by next Tuesday, March 8, beyond which date the estimator feels he cannot postpone his report. On the basis of Supt. Palmer's letter of February 28 to the Director, and of mine of March 2 to you, I urgently recommend that Mr. Mikell be given telegraphic instructions at the earliest possible moment to proceed with requistioning the paint.

2. Concrete Finish. Mr. Clarke did not believe that the discussion with the Commission regarding the proper surface for new concrete in the pedestal had brought out the question whether the six-inch reinforced concrete wall should be omitted or retained in the stair well between First and Second Landings. It was his recollection that discussion had centered on what kind of surface treatment should be given to any new concrete work that might be done, with particular reference to the walls and ceiling of the new tunnel through which our proposed new steps would run from the south end of the First Landing tunnel to the Promenade level. He believed that the Commission

EXHIBIT F

would not be inclined to enter into a discussion of the structural question involved in the matter of the six-inch wall, but that if such a wall were poured it should have the rough surface already referred to as a desirable element of any new concrete work.

Since it appeared that the Fine Arts Commission have not held an opinion as to the omission or retention of the six-inch wall, I telephoned this morning to Mr. Mikell to inquire whether any saving could be effected by his stopping the extra six-inch cut in the concrete at the point now reached. He informs me that the cut has been made from the Second Landing down almost half way to the First Landing, that in his opinion further cutting is not structurally required by the conditions, and that a saving of at least several hundred dollars (possibly $1000) might be effected if no further cutting were done. In this event the six-inch wall would be set on the existing concrete shelf at the point he has reached. Under the circumstances, it would seem logical to inform Mr. Mikell by wire, if the Branch of Engineering so recommends, that he may cease cutting and proceed as outlined immediately above.

3. General Development Plan. As outlined in my letter of March 2, I sought Mr. Clarke's advice as to the working out of the intent of the Commission with regard to some of the points mentioned in Mr. Parris's memorandum of February 18, directed to you. This opportunity to obtain Mr. Clarke's thoughts at first hand proved very helpful. Mr. Clarke also authorized me to say that his opinions of last evening were naturally affected by the greater detail into which he was able to go in discussing the actual conditions of topography and design conception on the board.

a. Sea Wall. Mr. Clarke felt that the location of the new sea wall on the north side of the Island, as shown in sketch plan NM-SL-2007-1-1, was closer to the central mall than the Commission intended. He indicated to me a line some 45 feet from the side of the mall, so as to permit the planting of two rows of trees in this short section. This would eliminate only about 40 feet more of the existing sea wall than the scheme shown in the sketch. In combination with this amendment it appears possible to work out an interesting treatment of the overlook which will in effect bring it to the water's edge. I will work out the proposed change on the plan I am preparing and forward prints as soon as possible.

b. Retaining Walls. On further consideration of all the elements involved, Mr. Clarke suggested that the walls outlining the two main axes be kept in instead of reducing them to curbs, but that their height be held at 2 feet instead of the originally proposed 3 feet. This will happily provide walls at seat height and will obviate the necessity of adding less desirable benches. The parapet around the sea wall would need to be kept at the 3 foot height for protection, but that on the

inner or Island side would be reduced to 2 feet, again with the sitting height in mind. In the entire lenghts of these walls some adjustments would be required to meet practical and aesthetic needs at certain points. Mr. Clarke further suggested that, in the central mall, a hedge be planted back of the walls on the upper retained grade, to serve as a barrier against uncontrolled entry even more effectively than the originally proposed 3 foot walls. He felt that the hedge above the inside wall of the walk at the sea wall, around the Statue, as discussed in Richmond but not shown on the original Preliminary General Development Plan, should be kept in the design. He further recommended use of Crataegus crus-galli as the desirable deciduous hedge material for both places.

c. Profile of Mall. Mr. Clarke drew out for me, in form slightly different from that shown on the sketch (NM-SL-2007-1-1) what he had in mind for the profile of the grass panel in the upper end of the central mall. The treatment here would be very close to the one I discussed with Mr. Tapscott in Richmond in January.

This summary is forwarded in accordance with Mr. Vint's instructions of March 2, and with Mr. Clarke's consent. A copy is being sent to Mr. Clarke as a memorandum of his personal comments, which he said would have his support in the final submission of our plans to the Fine Arts Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Norman T. Newton,
Resident Landscape Architect.

cc: Mr. Clarke
Mr. Vint
Mr. Cox
Mr. Palmer
Mr. Mikell

cc: Mr. Wirtz
Mr. Fink
Mr. Loo
Mr. Leiter
Mr. Kindl

NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL
COST ESTIMATE FOR CONTRACT EXECUTION
March 23, 1938

STRUCTURAL:		
Trails (bituminous)	$1,320.00	
Steps, Ramps, & Platform (granite)	4,500.00	
Paving (adj. to Mem'l) (granite)	4,500.00	
Parking Area (bituminous)	850.00	
Curbs (concrete)	200.00	$11,670.00
PLANTING:		
Large Trees (B & B) (materials & labor)	$1,500.00	
Miscellaneous Shrubs " "	2,000.00	
Ground Cover " "	23,000.00	26,500.00
EARTHWORK:		
Subsoil fill (2260 cu. yds.)	$1,700.00	
Topsoil	1,930.00	3,630.00
GRAND TOTAL		$41,800.00
PLANS & SUPERVISION (10%)		4,180.00
		$45,980.00

EXHIBIT G

March 25, 1930.

Dear Mr. Bell:

In accordance with the request of your office for advice with reference to H. J. Res. 403, To provide for the completion of the Navy and Marine Memorial through an appropriation by Congress of $189,634, I have to report that the Commission of Fine Arts considered this matter at a meeting held on March 24, 1930, in connection with a plan submitted by the National Park Service. A print of this plan is enclosed.

The plan proposes the treatment of the base by earth fill covere with planting, or ground cover. After seeing the monument in place, the Commission feel that this would be a much more appropriate way to treat the base than by a monumental granite base as heretofore proposed. Likewise an enormous saving could be effected thereby, as the estimated cost of carrying out the design is $45,000.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Daniel W. Bell,
Acting Director,
Bureau of the Budget,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G-1

C O P Y

March 25, 1938.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 24, 1938, approved the model of an anteater by Erwin Springweiler, of which a full sized bronze figure is to be placed in the National Zoological Park in Washington. The approval was made on the basis of the photograph which you submitted personally at the meeting.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

March 26, 1938.

Hon. John J. Boylan, Chairman,
Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman:

The Commission of Fine Arts was pleased to receive Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park & Planning Commission, and Mr. A. E. Carmerer at a meeting held last Thursday, March 24th, in order that it might give further careful consideration, in conformance with a request of the Jefferson Memorial Commission, to a design for a Memorial to Jefferson in the form of a Pantheon prepared in the office of John Russell Pope and proposed to be erected on the cross axis of the Mall, south of the Tidal Basin.

The Commission can only reiterate the stand it originally took with respect to this design, namely, that in its judgment the Pantheon scheme is unsuited to the site chosen for reasons outlined in a letter to you dated February 5th, 1938.

The Commission of Fine Arts has, from the very beginning, given most serious thought to this important problem. The Pantheon design was first submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts by the Jefferson Memorial Commission on or about March 20th, 1937. Prior to that date, the members of the Commission were not appraised of the facts with respect to designs under consideration. Never, at any time, has the Commission considered Mr. Pope's Pantheon design suitable for the site on the Tidal Basin; it has always expressed preference for a design more open in character, possessing in silhouette relatively long, low horizontal lines, harmonizing in architectural character with the lightness of the design of the White House, and with the principal axis kept open or at least partly so.

These qualifications were admirably met by the design submitted subsequently by your architects, consisting of two

EXHIBIT I

semicircular colonnades, an open central axis, and in the center a sculptural motif including a portrait statue of Jefferson. This design, which was enthusiastically approved, fitted the site admirably, justified the quality of great distinction, was destined to become one of the most notable architectural monuments in the United States, and provided an eminently worthy memorial to Thomas Jefferson.

Now the Commission understands that circumstances have arisen which precludes the use of this design and that therefore the Jefferson Memorial Commission has again under consideration the adoption of the Pantheon scheme.

The Commission of Fine Arts earnestly hopes that before final action is taken with respect to so important an element in the Plan of Washington, an exhaustive and thoroughly adequate study of the whole situation may be made. It was nine years after McKim made studies for the Lincoln Memorial, the Memorial Bridge, and the Water Gate that Congress authorized the Lincoln Memorial. Time should not be the essence of a great memorial project in Washington, more particularly when that project is of sufficient importance to qualify for the last great site in the composition of the Mall. In the judgment of the Commission of Fine Arts, a more fitting memorial than a Pantheon should be sought if the Tidal Basin site is to be adopted. Mr. Pope used this form in the Archives Building and as the central feature in the National Gallery of Art, now under construction. It appears, therefore, that a design of greater freshness would more adequately honor Jefferson.

It is not the desire of the Commission of Fine Arts to delay the realization of a scheme to suitably memorialize Thomas Jefferson. It does confidently believe that other designs, and possibly other sites, might be considered, and offers the Jefferson Memorial Commission the friendliest and most effective cooperation at its command to the end that at an early date a solution may be arrived upon eminently suitable to all parties interested in this most important enterprise.

Cordially and sincerely,

For the Commission of Fine Arts

GILMORE D. CLARKE,
Chairman.

GDC:MVL

C O P Y

March 21, 1938.

Miss Harlean James, Executive Secretary,
American Planning and Civic Association,
901 Union Trust Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss James:

I wrote you last week that I was referring your letter and enclosure to Mr. Eugene Savage concerning the General Outdoor Advertising Company. Mr. Savage is the painter member of the Commission. His statement requires no elaboration by me. It follows:

> The expressed intention of the General Outdoor Advertising Company to reproduce famous paintings on their sign boards disturbs and irritates.
>
> To take a work of Art out of its intended context of associated interior surroundings, sizes and intimacies and blow it up for general view across city lots and streets is disorderly enough to thoroughly defeat the reason given for the performance. It will only confuse.
>
> It will not mollify growing resentment to an objectionable medium of advertising.
>
> The cost of the idea expended in really good reproductions, at reduced sizes, framed and distributed in schools, young peoples gathering places and the like, would accomplish many times over the announced purpose."

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke.

GDC:R

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

Dr. C. G. Abbot, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, representing The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codocil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

1 Egyptian stone head of a king, IV-V Dynasty (?),

1 Chinese landscape scroll painting, Yuan dynasty. By Ni Tsan (1301-1374),

1 Chinese porcelain vase ChienLung period,

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. John E. Lodge, Director, and hereby approve the purchase.

Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts.

March 24th, 1938.

Katharine N. Rhoades.

EXHIBIT K